



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 23, 2007
Week Ending: April 22, 2007
CWP WA-CW1707

Cool Weather Continued Throughout the State, Fruit Blossoming Continued as did Branding and Vaccination Field Crops

Days suitable for fieldwork last week were 5.7. Cool weather and some frost continued to slow crop progress. Some areas reported fieldwork progressing smoothly while in other areas seeding was off and on. Winter wheat continued to look good.

Fruits and Veggies

Frost protection continued to be utilized in some areas. Cool weather prolonged cherry tree blossom and delayed apple blossom. There have been some scattered reports of frost. Some growers will experience damage, but can expect normal cropping.

Livestock

Pasture and range conditions were 1% very poor, 1% poor, 13% fair, 70% good, 15% excellent. Branding and vaccination continued strong in areas. Pasture growth was slowed due to cool weather but producers were putting cattle out. In some areas, hay growers have begun irrigating.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.7
Last Week	5.1

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	12	70	18
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	1	11	77	10
Subsoil	0	15	80	5
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	6	20	71	3
Irrigation Water	0	0	93	7
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	6	90	1
Hay & Roughage	16	25	56	3

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2006	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	74	56	52	77
Spring Wheat Emerged	35	18	33	47
Barley Planted	79	55	41	63
Barley Emerged	31	15	23	34
Potatoes Planted	55	43	62	58
Potatoes Emerged	19	7	4	16
Corn Planted	26	16	14	24
Dry Edible Beans Planted	45	25	16	23
Proc. Green Peas Planted	38	36	62	60
Dry Peas Planted	56	36	21	40

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	5	22	63	8
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	5	89	6
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	0	33	63	4
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	2	97	1
Barley Dryland	0	0	25	72	3
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	100	0
Potatoes	1	0	32	67	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Average low temperatures were mid 50's with cooler nights. There were a lot of cloudy days, with rainfall normal for this time of year.

Clark: The area had another good weekend for garden center sales.

Grays Harbor: Agricultural producers continued field cultivation in preparation for planting sweet corn and cannery peas next month. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations and applying pre-emergent herbicides. U-Pick strawberry growers were tilling fields to reduce the weed population. Several days of sunshine resulted in bud break on hybrid poplar plantations. Commercial dahlia growers were cultivating fields in preparation for planting tubers. Bedding plant growers reported several days of sunshine resulted in excellent sales of both annuals and vegetable transplants. Home gardeners were kept busy mowing, fertilizing and weeding.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Showers, frost, and cool weather stalled most spring agricultural activities.

Pierce/South King: Fields remained wet and hard to work. Several producers reported that they were two to three weeks behind schedule planting their crops. Pastures were not growing as fast as they should for this time of year. Producers reported that they were still feeding hay. It was cold the last few nights with the temperatures dropping down into the low 30's. No unusual situations were reported.

Mason: Days alternated between showery and cold and warm and sunny. Two mornings had frost last week. The latter part of the week was warmer in the mornings, and total precipitation for the week was just over .05 of an inch. Hail appeared twice in the midst of showery fronts that had moved through. Pastures were growing normally.

Mason (2nd Report): Moderate temperatures and little rainfall had producers out in their fields all week. Spring crops were starting to flourish and the first asparagus was harvested. More animals were moved out to pastures as fields started to dry out. Hay fields looked good so far. Many producers spent the week in "Spring Cleaning" mode, dealing with winter's harsh fall out. Greenhouse growers were busy as plant sales started to pick up. All the young animals (calves, kids, chicks and more) were

enjoying the mild weather and spending more time in the field and out of the barn.

Skagit: High temperatures for the week averaged 52 degrees Fahrenheit. There was .01 of an inch of rain precipitation recorded at the WSU North West Research and Extension Center in West Mount Vernon. With more good weather this past week area farmers were able to continue on with planting. Potato farmers in the valley had a very productive week last week with about five percent of this year's crop already in the ground. Spinach seed was also being planted in the Skagit Valley. The tulip festival is coming to a close the weekend April 28.

Snohomish/North King: Weather was beginning to warm up to the low to mid 50's with cooler nights in the high 30's to low 40's. Precipitation was about normal for this time of year. Farmers continued to plant crops and work the ground.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): The area had mostly good field-work weather with a few showers. Pastures were growing well. Plowing and disking continued. Apple, pear, and blueberry bloom were underway in warmer areas.

Thurston: Christmas tree growers took advantage of sunny days with no rain to apply post and pre-emergent herbicides. Turfgrass growers were kept busy mowing and fertilizing fields which were planted last fall. Organic vegetable truck farmers continued field cultivation in preparation for planting warm season vegetable crops. Commercial blueberry growers reported some early varieties were in full bloom. Several nights of below freezing temperatures forced retail plant nurseries to provide frost protection for tender bedding plants. Home gardeners took advantage of several sunny days to plant early season vegetable crops, fertilize the home lawn and weed.

Thurston (2nd Report): It was still too cold to make the grass grow! The fruit trees were not blooming well.

Whatcom: High temperatures were in the 50's to low 60's with lows in the 30's to 40's. There were some frost protective measures used on some blueberry fields. Producers were able to apply manure applications and get their fields prepared for planting.

Central

Chelan: Tree fruit growers continued reports of scattered significant frost damage to flowers, and the frost danger was far from over. Some growers will experience significant crop reductions. Most growers will experience some damage, but can expect normal cropping.

Chelan/Douglas: Cherry trees were in full bloom. Some growers were using frost control measures. Pears were beginning to bloom. Spring wheat was being planted. Cattle producers were beginning to release their livestock into early spring pastures. Calving was coming to an end. Hay producers were irrigating.

Franklin: There were a couple days of cold temperatures and one early morning frost. There were a few reports of some potato frost damage, but probably nothing the plants won't grow out of. There were a couple days of scattered showers as well. Field activity was high and planting of most of the irrigated row crops continued throughout the week. Dryland wheat was looking good, though there have been some widespread reports of rust in places (including outside of Franklin County).

Grant: Fresh pea planting continued. Grain corn planting was also in full swing. Potato planting continued. Dryland winter wheat acreage looked great.

Kittitas: The area had nice weather, still cool at night, with some rain. Trees were beginning to leaf out and the grass was growing enough to get lawnmowers running and cows on pasture in many places. Many producers were still branding and vaccinating calves. Crop growth was good, with timothy stands up to 8 inches.

Yakima: Average temperature varied from seven degrees below normal to four degrees above normal, with .09 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Yakima (2nd Report): Cooler than normal weather had prolonged cherry bloom and delayed apple bloom in the upper Yakima Valley. Meanwhile pears were in bloom in the mid to lower Yakima Valley. Cold nighttime temperatures forced growers to continue to use frost control strategies. There were scattered reports of apple king bloom being killed by frost. Hop yards were cultivated, weed management measures taken, and trellises strung up.

Eastern

Adams: Enough precipitation was collected last week to maintain soil moisture conditions. Winter wheat remained in pretty good condition and spring seeded cereal emergence will be completed by mid week.

Asotin/Garfield: Crops remained in good condition with adequate moisture in most areas. Spring work was progressing normally.

Ferry: Orchardists were still utilizing frost control methods. Cherries were almost in full bloom and pears were blooming. Calving was coming to an end and some cattle were put out spring pastures. Most of alfalfa hay growers were irrigating.

Garfield: Mixed showers and cold windy nights equaled slow spring growth. Grain crops looked good. Some cattle were moved to summer pasture.

Lincoln: The area was in need of warm growing weather for maximum crop potential.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Soil moisture conditions remained unchanged after precipitation during the week. Winter wheat continued to look pretty good as weed competition was low. Spring cereal seeding was progressing and will be nearing completion by the end of the week

Lincoln (3rd Report): Calving was winding down for most livestock producers. Spring seeding was in full swing in many areas, as well as weed spraying when weather permitted it. Warmer growing weather was needed for crops although the majority of them looked good.

Okanogan: Weather was cool and dry. There were a few isolated showers on Saturday. Blooms of some soft fruit were damaged due to some heavy frosts.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: A week of freezing temperatures at night was not doing crops that have been sprayed any good. Frost was knocking back the alfalfa crop pretty good and had delayed development. Some damage may have occurred to local fruit trees that were blooming, but only time will tell. Winter wheat looked pretty good but not as good as originally reported. Field work started but was off and on due to rain and the cool weather. Some planting of spring grains and blue grass seed had started and a few fields had emerged. Grass on pastures was growing slowly due to the freezing temperatures at night.

Stevens: Cold night time temperatures stalled hay and pasture growth. Lack of rainfall was good for field work, but the area could use a good soaking rain. The area remained over three inches short on moisture.

Walla Walla: Continued cool weather was slowing growth of all crops and rangeland. Frequent light showers providing great moisture. Winds continued to delay spraying activities.

Whitman: Spring work was finishing up in the western two-thirds of the county while work was still progressing in the eastern third. Conditions remained cool. Newly seeded spring crop as well as winter wheat could use some warmer temperatures to bring along crop development.

Weekly Weather Statistics April 23, 2007

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS				LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIP			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	BASE-50F		BASE-60F		TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	PCT		
	---	---	---	---	TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	INCHES	---	---	INCHES	DFN	NORMAL	DAYS
WEST															
Bellingham Intl	30	61	47	-3	4	-3	0	+0	0.55	-0.08	3	30.62	+1.93	107	132
Everett	38	58	47	-2	2	-9	0	+0	0.10	-0.53	3	28.73	+0.02	100	131
Hoquiam	36	58	49	-2	5	-9	0	+0	0.67	-0.32	6	63.80	+4.96	108	150
Kelso	32	63	48	-2	5	-9	0	+0	0.47	-0.30	4	37.10	-1.57	96	116
Olympia	29	60	46	-3	1	-6	0	+0	0.43	-0.30	6	52.07	+8.04	118	137
Seattle Tacoma	36	62	49	-2	5	-9	0	+0	0.19	-0.32	4	40.17	+8.61	127	127
Shelton	29	61	45	-5	3	-12	0	+0	0.61	-0.27	6	71.00	+13.30	123	143
Tacoma WA AP	30	61	47	-4	2	-12	0	+0	0.28	-0.35	6	36.55	+2.86	108	127
Vancouver WA	32	62	48	-2	5	-9	0	+0	1.17	+0.54	6	34.59	-0.04	100	119
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	27	66	47	-2	5	-6	0	+0	0.03	-0.11	1	7.37	+0.30	104	70
Omak AP	21	66	46	-1	5	-2	0	+0	0.02	-0.26	1	6.84	-3.26	68	50
Stampede Pass	28	43	35	+1	0	+0	0	+0	0.85	-0.24	5	90.74	+20.68	130	142
Wenatchee	34	67	49	-4	7	-18	0	+0	0.00	-0.14	0	6.71	+0.33	105	47
Yakima AP	23	64	45	-5	4	-16	0	+0	0.09	-0.03	3	6.38	+0.03	100	52
NORTHEAST															
Colville	26	61	45	-3	2	-7	0	+0	0.02	-0.33	1	11.48	-3.89	75	84
Deer Park	22	58	43	-5	0	-7	0	+0	0.03	-0.31	2	15.26	+1.58	112	93
Republic	25	59	43	-2	0	-7	0	+0	0.15	-0.13	2	10.82	+0.61	106	62
Spokane AP	29	56	45	-3	0	-7	0	+0	0.11	-0.15	2	12.01	-0.10	99	84
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	30	64	47	-6	6	-19	0	+0	0.00	-0.07	0	5.92	+0.36	106	57
Moses Lake	24	63	46	-6	4	-21	0	+0	0.00	-0.07	0	5.17	-0.39	93	56
Quincy	30	64	48	-4	3	-20	0	+0	0.00	-0.10	0	6.52	+0.46	108	45
Ritzville	28	58	44	-5	0	-10	0	+0	0.19	+0.02	1	9.21	+0.53	106	71
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	30	67	50	-6	10	-33	0	-7	0.01	-0.06	1	3.88	-1.33	74	42
Pasco	28	66	51	-4	14	-24	0	-7	0.06	-0.01	2	5.99	+0.16	103	63
Pullman	29	57	44	-3	0	-7	0	+0	0.24	-0.11	2	14.08	-1.98	88	90
Walla_Walla_Rgn	37	62	50	-4	4	-26	0	-2	0.60	+0.22	2	15.39	+0.26	102	79
Whitman_Mission	28	64	48	-4	2	-21	0	-3	0.44	+0.16	3	11.00	+0.61	106	83
WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE															
Lewiston ID	35	63	50	-3	10	-16	0	-7	0.18	-0.10	1	7.01	-1.09	87	68

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Friday September 1, 2006

DFN = Departure From Normal.

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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